



**A Message
From
The
Secretary**

The first week of May is recognized as National Public Service Recognition Week and Governor Sebelius has proclaimed this week Kansas Public Service Recognition Week as well. KDHE was fortunate to have Gov. Sebelius visit employees in several programs in a short tour of the KDHE. She stopped in the Child Care

Licensing and Registration program and the Bureau of Waste Management. Some employees had a chance to explain to her what their job entails and received a personal "thank you" from the governor for their work.

This week I would also like to take the opportunity to thank each of you for what you do each day to serve Kansans and to make this state the best in the nation. The work of state employees may sometimes seem to go unnoticed, but in reality, that is not the case. I'm sure many of you see the impact you have on your customers as you assist them through the process of getting a birth certificate, restaurant license, daycare registration, or professional certification; or as you help them with a child who has special needs or to locate a cancer screening; or as you help businesses with air and water permits or waste disposal needs; or provide lab analysis and results. This agency touches many Kansans in positive ways through assistance to individuals and provides us all with guidance on how to preserve our state through better, safer practices. Thank you for your work. The benefits of your efforts will be reaped by many generations.

KDHE is gearing up for another season of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Kansas. Last year there were two deaths from the virus, and in 2003 there were seven deaths. Many more Kansans have been affected by WNV. Disease experts believe we become immune to WNV after we get it. Unfortunately, many of us don't know whether we've had it or not, because symptoms vary significantly. Therefore, it is imperative that we take the actions necessary to protect ourselves, and particularly seniors in Kansas. WNV is much more severe for people 50 and over, so as you take precautions, also remind your older family members to do the same. Use an insect repellent with DEET or other approved ingredients, wear protective clothing, remove standing water from around your home, cover any openings that would allow mosquitoes to get into your home, and use a larvicide in any standing water that can't be removed to reduce mosquito breeding on your property.

KDHE is currently working on a new campaign called "Get Caught Recycling" in which heroes from around the state will be recruited for photographs of them recycling. These images will be used in a media campaign and bus tour planned in the fall. We want to bring renewed attention to recycling through this effort and encourage children and adults to begin to recycle or to begin again if they've gotten out of the habit.

You'll be hearing more about the Healthy**KANSAS**: *Taking Steps Together* initiative in the coming months as we kick off with activities this summer. This effort focuses on reducing obesity, physical inactivity and tobacco use, while targeting children in schools, adults in the workplace, and seniors. This initiative will provide an opportunity for each of us to evaluate how we can become healthier and how to help our children and our aging loved ones become healthier too. We will be working to identify activities that schools, businesses, senior centers/organizations, and communities can implement or expand to assist Kansans in getting healthier.

Watch for Healthy**KANSAS**: *Taking Steps Together* activities here at KDHE in which you can get involved. Let's all get healthier together!

Be Well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Ad" or similar, written in a cursive style.